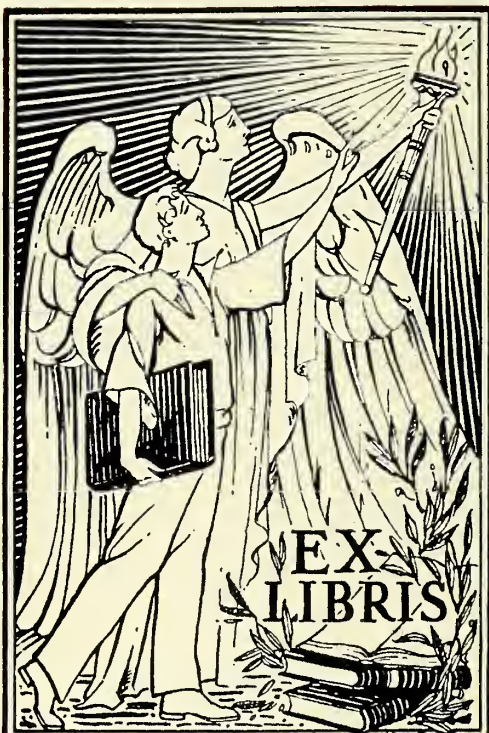


BLINDNESS A TEMPORARY DISABLEMENT

by

Mrs. Sidney McCallin

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# INDUSTRIAL REHABILITATION OF DISABLED SOLDIERS AND SAILORS

Conducted by ELIZABETH G. UPHAM.

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## BLINDNESS A TEMPORARY DISABLEMENT

**Soldiers Who Have Lost Their Sight Quickly Fitted to Assume Remunerative Positions in Civil Life—Ideal Atmosphere Characterizes Rehabilitation at St. Dunstan's—Cheer the Keynote**

By MRS. SIDNEY McCALLIN, a Worker with the Staff of St. Dunstan's Hostel in London, England

Nineteen fourteen is associated in the epochs of history with the most intense suffering and the greatest reconstructive progress the world has ever witnessed. A man gives his sight for the humanity of the world, and reconstructive work has proved that the world has happiness to give him in return. Forget the figure of sadness, the blind and lonely musician, fiddle and alms-cup in hand, for whom the world, in its ignorance of life's possibilities, has known but pity. It was the thought of this figure which inspired a great man—a man pecu-

liarily suited to the task—to establish St. Dunstan's, the magnificent institution which was to render such a plight impossible for Great Britain's soldiers and sailors.

Sir C. Arthur Pearson, Bart., himself a blind man who had lost his sight directly previous to the declaration of war, perceived in the reclamation of the blind the possibility of a great field, and America, through the generosity of Mr. Otto Kahn, of New York, had the privilege of extending a helping hand in the enterprise by supplying necessary quarters for this home.

The institution was founded to meet the need of rehabilitating about forty men. The hostel now accom-



Fig. 2. The class in typewriting at St. Dunstan's Hostel.

modates, in the original house and its various annexes, over five hundred. Up to the present time between three and four thousand men have been graduated from its various departments, fully equipped to take up life anew.

Let us, in imagination, follow the progress of one of these interesting characters through the period of time—from twelve to fourteen months, as the case may be—in which he takes the first great step in his new life in the blind world.

Nestled in the fresh greenery of Regent's Park and guarded by the grim, grey spires of London, is St. Dunstan's. It is here that our blind man goes to begin life over. Not an entirely strange world it is to which he comes as he enters his new home, for, from the time he has found himself in bandages, lying in a military hospital, he has been visited by representatives of the staff of St. Dunstan's, and he himself has made occasional visits to the hospital during his convalescence. Amid the welcome of the staff sisters, who are members of the Voluntary Aid Detachment of the British Red Cross, he finds it a pleasure to learn that he is to be completely outfitted with necessary clothing and given a Braille watch with which he can tell the time by touch, and that he is to be able, in a personal interview with the chief himself, to choose his future vocation. In his new environment he might question his ability to be independent, but he is pleasantly surprised to find that it is with comparative ease he makes the first tour of inspection. He learns that, if he be a Scottie, other kilties will sit with him at the table; or that if, by chance, he has come from the Land of the Maple Leaf, brothers from over the water will be beside him. Suddenly he perceives that he is walking upon a pathway of linoleum flanked by strips of carpet. By this time he has realized that there are turnings in the pathway which lead him to boot-room,



Fig. 1. Sir Arthur Pearson, the publisher, who lost his sight before the outbreak of the present war, and who has founded St. Dunstan's Hostel for the rehabilitation of blinded sailors and soldiers.

barber-shop, work-room, and other apartments of the building, among which is the inner lounge, where he is greeted by varied sounds. His ear distinguishes between the ticking of several typewriters and the buzz of conversation, indicating the fact that the boys are entertaining their friends. He is told that a four at Braille dominoes are having an exciting game, and that the piano in a far corner is being played by a blind pianist to while away the time for those who might feel dull. Besides being taught Braille, so necessary to the blind, every St.



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Fig. 3. Corner of carpenters' and joiners' shop at St. Dunstan's.

Dunstan man learns the use of an ordinary typewriter, with which he is provided upon leaving the hostel.

Our blind man has his choice of the following vocations: a full training in massage, including pathology, which equips him to be of service at the present time in military hospitals and later on in private practice; poultry farming, which takes him into the art of the rearing and disposition of stock; and carpentry, with a department for picture-framing, which includes the fabrication of simple furniture and trays. This last department is taught by a blind man. Cobbling, which is of use to men living in small towns, is also taught, and basket-weaving is being done the world over by the soldier-blind with as much efficiency as by the civilian who has lost his sight. Liberty & Co., with its high-class reputation, sells the fiber mats made at St. Dunstan's, and Gamage & Co., of London, sells St. Dunstan's twine hammocks. This fact in itself speaks for the efficiency of these departments. Braille shorthand and telephone operating are being taught to some extent. It is of interest to realize that, in his establishment of the trades taught here, Sir Arthur Pearson has not in any way encroached upon the fields already occupied by the civilian blind.

But "all work and no play makes Tommy a dull boy," and please don't think of our blind man as dull, for in reality he whistles and sings throughout the day. Nine o'clock finds our men assembled to hear the important news of the day read from the daily paper. From nine-thirty to twelve and two-thirty to four-thirty they are in the work-shops, with a happy intermission at noon, during which time there is a bit of dancing if the Cold Stream Guards Band is at hand, and if not, a walk around Regent's Park with an interesting companion, or perhaps a trip to town to do a bit of shopping. On the evenings when nothing exciting is planned it is not an un-

usual sight to see many couples making off to near-by tea-shops or going out in groups for an hour's motoring. Often a theatrical company from the West End of London comes out to entertain what they consider the most appreciative audience in London; or occasionally an hour of choice music is enjoyed by the "boys."

After supper our happy family gathers around its own fireside and its members enjoy the privilege of entertaining each other. Many a fiery debate based on current events takes place, and occasionally Sir Arthur Pearson himself is a delighted listener. A rare Welsh voice is often heard, and on very special occasions St. Dunstan's rag-time band is induced to play. The members of the band, with the exception of the pianist, are all blind. During these concerts one frequently hears a faint click here and there among the audience. Every smoker is in possession of a tiny tin box into which, out of



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Fig. 4. Blind men at St. Dunstan's learning to make door mats. Liberty & Co. sells the fiber mats made here.

consideration for the sister responsible for the spotlessness of the assembly room, he drops his match-ends and ashes.

In the winter months directly previous to the Christmas holidays, the Christmas pantomime is usually rehearsed under the capable direction of St. Dunstan's quartermaster, an artist in his profession.

It is not fair to leave our versatile character without mentioning the sports which play such an important part



Fig. 5. Shoe-making shop at St. Dunstan's.

in his life. With the coming of spring, the gymnastic drill which is of such help during the winter months is abandoned, for, throughout England, this season ushers in one of the most favorite sports—rowing. And so we find him practicing on the Regent's Park lagoon, in preparation for the contest for possession of the silver cup.

Lest it be thought that the care of the men ceases with their graduation from the hostel of St. Dunstan's, it is interesting to know that an after-care department has been organized, whose members keep track of the men



Fig. 6. St. Dunstan's rag-time band, with some of the sisters. All the members of the band with the exception of the pianist are blind. Note the happy expression on the faces of all the men in this and the preceding pictures.

wherever they may be and see to it that their shops are properly situated, that their homes are satisfactory, and that their materials reach them in good order.

It is at home that the blind man most appreciates the remarkably fine teaching he has received in the Braille department at St. Dunstan's under a commandant of exceptional understanding and her staff of capable teachers and the system which keeps him in touch with the unusually fine Fully Contracted Revised English Braille Library in London.

And now you will perhaps say, "What can I do to help this great cause in America?" You may not know that there is in the United States a fully organized institution similar to St. Dunstan's. In addition, there is an organization entitled the A. B. F. B. (American, British, French, Belgian) Relief for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors, which has pledged vast sums to France, which is now helping St. Dunstan's, and which stands ready to act as a medium for the aid of our American men. And as America so willingly stretched out her hand to help the blinded soldiers and sailors of Great Britain, let her now prepare to do as much and more for her own.

#### WHAT ONE STATE IS DOING

##### How Pennsylvania Is Planning to Help Its Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines Crippled in War Service

In the Bureau of Employment of the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, at Harrisburg, extensive card files, recently installed, indicate where 42,111 soldiers, sailors, and marines, crippled or permanently disabled through war service, may find in Pennsylvania suitable employment despite their various disabilities. More than one-half of the 42,111 employment openings, in virtually all sections of the commonwealth, are in skilled tasks that

may be performed by men having lost one or both legs, an arm, or who are handicapped by other disability. Places of employment range from steel mills to dairies, from silk mills to railroads, from cigar factories to paper mills, and from lumber camps to department stores. The great number of employment opportunities for crippled war veterans are classified in the bureau of employment by industry, by locality, by occupation, and by disability of workers to be employed. This classification has been made possible by the patriotic responses of Pennsylvania employers to a questionnaire sent state-wide from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry early this year.

On March 1, the total number of employment openings so classified was 30,710. This number has increased to 42,111 to May 1, and is constantly growing, as replies are still being received. Every Pennsylvania employer who can give employment to war cripples handicapped by various disabilities is urged to notify at once the department of labor and industry, Harrisburg.

The report of the progress of this work in Pennsylvania, the first state in the Union to cooperate actively with the national authorities in the effort to prevent war cripples from being shunted merely into by-product industrial tasks, was submitted to Acting Commissioner Lew R. Palmer, of the department of labor and industry, by Jacob Lightner, director of the bureau of employment. The chairman of the Pennsylvania State Committee on Reconstruction, Reeducation and Reemployment of Crippled Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines, recently appointed by Governor Brumbaugh, is Adjutant General Frank D. Beary; the committee, which includes Acting Health Commissioner B. Frank Royer, Acting Commissioner of Labor and Industry Lew R. Palmer, and Dr. J. George Becht, Secretary of the State Board of Education, has general supervision of the reconstruction program for the commonwealth.

The national authorities are planning to equip each disabled soldier and sailor with every suitable appliance to bring his physical efficiency to a maximum and to give him suitable treatment and training to adapt him for the tasks in industry he can most advantageously perform. From the classified employment lists of the department of labor and industry, each Pennsylvania soldier, sailor, and marine disabled in war service will be able to obtain, from thousands of openings in his home state, a task for which he is best suited physically, a task that will give him greatest financial return according to his capability and probably in the city or town where he most desires to reside.

The questionnaire sent to employers by the department of labor and industry designated thirty-eight general classes of disability which might result from war wounds to handicap the soldier or sailor when he desires to engage in industrial work. These disabilities include loss of one or both of the upper extremities in whole or in part, stiffness of the upper extremities in whole or in part, loss of one or both of the lower extremities in whole or in part, blindness of one or both eyes, deafness of one or both ears, loss of speech, repulsive facial disfigurements, hernia and general health impairment which would prevent heavy manual labor.

The complete list of employment openings in Pennsylvania, tabulated in the bureau of employment from replies received up to May 1, according to the various classes of disability, are as follows:

Disability	Number of openings
Loss of fingers..... One hand.....	4,451
Both hands.....	729
Loss of hand at wrist..... One hand.....	453
Both hands.....	3
Loss of arm below elbow..... One arm.....	374

Loss of arm at shoulder.....	Both arms.....	328
	One arm.....	328
Stiff finger-joints.....	Both arms.....	2,321
	One hand.....	2,014
Stiff wrist-joint.....	Both hands.....	604
	One arm.....	499
Stiff elbow-joint.....	Both arms.....	397
	One arm.....	72
Stiff shoulder-joint.....	Both arms.....	521
	One arm.....	80
Partial loss of foot.....	Both arms.....	2,149
	One foot.....	599
Loss of foot at ankle.....	Both feet.....	1,074
	One foot.....	401
Loss of leg below knee.....	One leg.....	993
	Both legs.....	175
Loss of leg at knee.....	One leg.....	649
	Both legs.....	73
Loss of leg at middle of thigh.....	One leg.....	491
	Both legs.....	52
Loss of leg at hip-joint.....	One leg.....	795
	Both legs.....	43
Stiffness of lower extremities.....	One leg.....	432
	Both legs.....	113
Blindness .....	One eye.....	4,021
	Both eyes.....	501
Deafness .....	One ear.....	3,642
	Both ears.....	501
Loss of speech.....		2,981
Repulsive facial disfigurements.....		5,783
Hernia .....		909
General health impairment, preventing heavy manual labor.....		1,321
Miscellaneous .....		1,558
Total .....		42,111

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### Second Annual Meeting of the National Society for the Promotion of Occupational Therapy

The business meeting was held on the morning of Labor Day. In the afternoon a visit was paid to the splendid workshops at Bloomingdale Hospital, where Dr. Russell sketched the history of the institution in a short address of welcome, after which tea was served and the shops visited. The scientific session was opened on Tuesday, September 3, with a paper on "The Principles of Occupational Therapy," by Dr. W. P. Dunton, in which he urged that the society formulate the fundamentals of the subject for the guidance of beginners in the work. A committee consisting of Dr. W. L. Russell, Mrs. Eleanor C. Slagle, and Mr. Norman L. Burnette was appointed for the purpose of making up a report, which will appear in the October number of the *Maryland Psychiatric Quarterly*.

Miss Evelyn L. Collins spoke on "The Remuneration of Teachers," and a committee was also appointed to bring in recommendations on this subject. Some of those present seemed to fear that this might be regarded as an attempt to unionize although it had been clearly expressed that the purpose of introducing the subject was that teachers might be accorded a proper recognition and that hospital superintendents might have some criteria for action. In such a report, it is necessary to consider a number of factors, such as hours of duty, maintenance, training and experience, number of pupils, etc., all of which it is hoped will be given proper value by the committee.

Dean Russell of Teachers College, in a stimulating address, requested that the society determine the minimum requirements for a course of training for occupational aides. The board of management is at present working on this matter, and their recommendations will appear in the October *Quarterly*.

During a pleasant visit to the Red Cross Institute for Crippled and Disabled Men on Tuesday afternoon addresses were made by the assistant director, Mr. H. R. Hayden, who outlined the work of the institute, by Miss Randolph, who described the speakers' bureau, by Miss Bulliss, who told of the industrial surveys which had been made under her direction, and by Miss Stein, who spoke of the placement of cripples by the employment bureau. Much interest was shown in Mr. Kidner's address Tues-

day evening on The Work of the Canadian Invalided Soldiers Commission, which was illustrated with three reels of pictures. Miss Susan C. Johnson gave an interesting description of work at the Montefiore Home, illustrated with lantern slides.

On Wednesday morning the subject of training courses was discussed by Miss Susan C. Johnson, Mr. N. L. Burnette, and Mrs. E. C. Slagle. In her paper Miss Johnson spoke of the desirability of standardizing products in order that there may be an improvement in the design and utility of the products of patients' labor. Mrs. Mary J. Sullivan, formerly connected with Pratt Institute, was appointed chairman of a committee to take charge of this matter.

A visit was then paid to the Clinic for Functional Re-education of Disabled Soldiers, Sailors and Civilians, at 5 Livingston Place, where Dr. W. Gilman Thompson escorted the members about the institution and explained its workings.

The afternoon session was opened by a paper by Dr. S. Wachsmann, of the Montefiore Home, on "The Remuneration of Patients." Although the speakers agreed with many of the excellent ideas advanced by Dr. Wachsmann, the paper provoked considerable discussion. A committee was appointed, as suggested by Dr. Wachsmann, to consider the subject and report to the board of management.

The enthusiasm and satisfaction of those attending were evidences that the meeting had been quite worth while, and an excellent attendance testified to the interest which is being taken in the subject.

The third annual meeting will be held in Chicago on the second Monday in September, 1919.

Wherever we are, however near the end of our running, it is never too late to resolve that high thoughts and brave qualities shall accompany us for the rest of our journey. Such resolves may be easier for those who have made them before and carried them out; they are, undoubtedly, more difficult for those who have made them before and then turned slothful and let them slide out of grasp; but what is worth while to bear in mind is that beginning again is never impossible; the field of effort is open and who sets his will to work may achieve.—Harper's Weekly.

Today, whatever may annoy,  
The word for me is Joy, just simple Joy:

The joy of life;  
The joy of children and of wife;  
The joy of bright blue skies;  
The joy of rain; the glad surprise  
Of twinkling stars that shine at night;  
The joy of winged things upon their flight;  
The joy of noon-day, and the tried  
True joyousness of eventide;  
The joy of labor, and of mirth;  
The joy of air, and sea, and earth—  
The countless joys that ever flow from Him  
Whose vast beneficence doth dim  
The lustrous light of day,  
And lavish gifts divine upon our way.

Whate'er there be of Sorrow  
I'll put off till Tomorrow,  
And when Tomorrow comes, why then  
'Twill be Today and Joy again!

—Atlantic Monthly.



